

REMARKS

Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. Upon entrance of the above amendment, Claim 2 will be cancelled without prejudice, and Claims 1 and 13 will be amended. Support for the amended claims can generally be found throughout the application as originally filed. As such, applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is being added herein.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-3, 5-6, 8-9, 11-13, 15 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Young et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,353,121) in view of Houser et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,774,859). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed for the following reasons.

With regard to amended Claims 1 and 13, Young fails to teach the dialog-capable speech interface of the present invention. It is understood that the Examiner relies on Houser to provide the requisite motivation to modify Young to arrive at the present invention. It is not denied that Houser provides a speech recognition. However, Applicants respectfully submit that the speech recognition interface of Houser is quite different from the present invention, as discussed below.

The speech interface of the present invention includes a speech recognizer that receives spoken requests for the recorded item of program content, a natural language parser that receives the input sentence from the speech recognizer, a dialog system that

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interacts with a user, and a file system access module that has access to a replay file system capturing information from the electronic program guide. The dialog system engages the user in a dialog and ascertains additional attributes for the recorded item of program content.

It is very important to note that Houser lacks the dialog system and the file system access module. Houser does not need these because they are not necessarily required for recording programs directly from the electronic program guide. Instead Houser simply recognizes a predefined set of spoken commands and causes these commands to be performed without engaging the user in a dialog and without ascertaining additional attributes for the recorded item of program content.

It is understood that Young was cited to show that it is well known to record additional data information other than contents of the programs, from electronic program guide supplied with Cable/Satellite or Internet tools, such as "Category," "Network," "Date," "Actors," "Director," and so on. However, there is no suggestion that any speech interface with dialog system could be used to have access to these stored information to retrieve and replay interested programs. Neither can mere combination of speech recognizer of Houser and recording system of Young arrive at the present invention because, as discussed above, the speech recognizer of Houser has no dialog system.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections under § 103(a) are traversed for independent claims 1 and 13. For the reasons that the independent claims are allowable, the dependant claims are also allowable.

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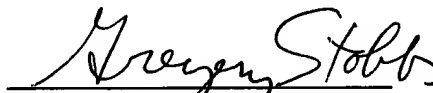
CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that all pending claims are currently presented in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at her earliest possible convenience. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the art cited but not relied upon by the Examiner. Applicants have concluded that these references do not affect the patentability of the claims as currently presented.

If the Examiner has any questions regarding the present amendment, the Examiner should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS
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1. (Twice Amended) An interactive replay system for organizing recorded items of program content, the system having access to an electronic program guide that stores electronic program guide attribute information for items of program content, comprising:

a memory having a data structure for storing the location of a recorded item of program content in association with at least one electronic program guide attribute selected from the group consisting of program title information, program category, broadcasting network, date of broadcast, time of broadcast, actors and director;

a file write mechanism that automatically accesses the electronic program guide attribute information about the recorded item of program content to be stored in said data structure;

a speech recognizer that receive a spoken request for the recorded item of program content and generates an input sentence corresponding to the spoken request, where the spoken request includes at least one electronic program guide attribute associated with the recorded item of program content;

a natural language parser that receives the input sentence from the speech recognizer and identifies the at least one electronic program guide attribute from the input sentence; and

a dialog system that interacts with a user to ascertain additional electronic program guide attributes for the recorded item of program content.

[a file read mechanism that ascertains the storage location of the recorded item of program content based on said at least one electronic program guide attribute.]

Please cancel Claim 2.

13. (Amended) An interactive replay system for accessing recorded items of program content, comprising:

an electronic program guide for storing electronic program guide information for items of program content;

a memory having a data structure for storing at least one recorded item of program content in association with corresponding electronic program guide information;

a file write mechanism that accesses the electronic program guide and storing electronic program guide information for the at least one recorded item of program content in the data structure of the memory;

a speech recognizer that receives a spoken request for a specific recorded item of program content and generates an input sentence corresponding to the spoken request, where the spoken request includes electronic program guide information associated with the specific recorded item of program content;

a natural language parser that receives the input sentence from the speech recognizer and identifies the electronic program guide information embodied in the input sentence; and

a dialog system that interacts with a user to ascertain additional electronic program guide attributes for the recorded item of program content.

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[a file read mechanism that retrieves the specific recorded item of program content based on the electronic program guide information received from the natural language parser.]